The fold ſtands empty, in the drowned field,
And crowes are fatted with the murrion flocke.
The nine mens Morris is fild vp with mudde:
And the queint Mazes, in the wanton greene,
For lacke of tread, are vndiſtinguiſhable.
The humane mortals want their winter heere.
No night is now with hymne or carroll bleſt.
Therefore the Moone (the gouerneſſe of floods)
Pale in her anger, waſhes all the aire;
That Rheumaticke diſeaſes doe abound.
And, thorough this diſtemperature, wee ſee
The ſeaſons alter: hoary headed froſts
Fall in the freſh lappe of the Crymſon roſe,
And on old *Hyems* chinne and Icy crowne,
An odorous Chaplet of ſweete Sommer buddes
Is, as in mockery, ſet. The Spring, the Sommer,
The childing Autumne, angry Winter change
Their wonted Liueries: and the mazed worlde,
By their increaſe, now knowes not which is which:
And this ſame progeny of euils,
Comes from our debate, from our diſſention:
We are their Parents and originall.

Oberon. Doe you amend it then: it lyes in you.
Why ſhould *Titania* croſſe her *Oberon*?
I doe but begge a little Changeling boy,
To be my Henchman.

Queene. Set your heart at reſt.
The Faiery Land buies not the childe of mee.
His mother was a Votreſſe of my order:
And in the ſpiced *Indian* ayer, by night,
Full often hath ſhe goſſipt, by my ſide,
And ſat, with me on *Neptunes* yellow ſands
Marking th'embarked traders on the flood:
When we haue laught to ſee the ſailes conceaue,
And grow bigge bellied, with the wanton winde:

Whi

Which ſhe, with prettie, and with ſwim
Following (her wombe then rich with
Would imitate, and ſaile vpon the land
To fetch me trifles, and returne againe,
As from a voyage, rich with marchandi
But ſhe, being mortall, of that boy did d
And, for her ſake, doe I reare vp her bo
And, for her ſake, I will not part with h

Ob. How long, within this wood, ent

Quee. Perchaunce, till after *Theſeus*
If you will patiently daunce in our Rou
And ſee our Moonelight Reuelles, goe
If not, ſhunne me, and I will ſpare your

Ob. Giue mee that boy, and I will goe

Quee. Not for thy Fairy kingdome. F
We ſhall chide downeright, if I longer

Ob. Well: goe thy way. Thou ſhalt no
Till I torment thee, for this iniury.
My gentle *Pucke* come hither: thou re
Since once I ſat vpon a promontory,
And heard a Mearemaide, on a Dolphin
Vttering ſuch dulcet and hermonious b
That the rude ſea grewe ciuill at her ſon
And certaine ſtarres ſhot madly from t
To heare the Sea-maids muſicke.

Puck. I remember.

Ob. That very time, I ſaw (but thou c
Flying betweene the colde Moone and
Cupid, all arm'd: a certaine aime he too
At a faire Veſtall, throned by weſt,
And looſ'd his loue-ſhaft ſmartly, from h
As it ſhould pearce a hundred thouſand
But, I might ſee young *Cupids* fiery ſhaft
Quencht in the chaſt beames of the wat
And the imperiall Votreſſe paſſed on,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Midsummer Night's Dream* (STC 22302) LONDON, 1600 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.34.k.29)